

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

SCI-06 TRSE-00 FEA-02 NEA-11 CEA-02 CIEP-02 /172 R

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T/IEP - MR TARRANT

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R 052300Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. DURING CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FEBRUARY 5,
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA SAID HE HAD SEEN SPECULATION IN
THE US PRESS THAT WE ARE LOSING INTEREST IN THE WASHINGTON
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ENERGY CONFERENCE AND WONDERED IF WE HAD ANY COMMENT HE

COULD REPORT TO ROME. HARTMAN SAID THAT THIS SPECULATION IS COMPLETELY WRONG AND THAT OUR INTEREST REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER. THE NOTION PUT FORTH THAT OUR CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IS SOMEHOW INCONSISTENT WITH OUR GOAL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS MISTAKEN, SINCE SELF-SUFFICIENCY WILL TAKE TIME TO ACHIEVE. HARTMAN CONTINUED THAT WE NEED INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ON ENERGY PROBLEMS TO SHOW PUBLIC OPINION THAT WE ARE SEEN TO BE WORKING TOGETHER TO RESOLVE A SERIOUS COMMON PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CONFERENCE MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO LOOK AT THE ENERGY PROBLEM TOGETHER.

2. IN RESPONSE TO ORTONA'S QUERY ABOUT BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE ARABS, HARTMAN OBSERVED THAT THEY RUN THE RISK OF BIDDING PRICES UP, PRESENT A PICTURE OF POLITICAL DISARRAY IN THE WEST, AND COULD ENCOURAGE MORE EXTREME DEMANDS BY THE PRODUCING STATES. AT TODAY'S PRICES, BILATERAL DEALS ARE UNWORKABLE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO ORTONA'S EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS AT THE CONFERENCE, HARTMAN SAID THAT IF THE MEETING SHOULD DETERIORATE INTO BICKERING OVER PROCEDURES, THIS COULD BE SEEN AS A FINAL BANKRUPTCY OF HOPES FOR WESTERN COOPERATION. HE OBSERVED THAT DURING 25 YEARS OF POST-WAR CRISES, THE US AND EUROPE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS; IT IS HARD TO CONCEIVE WHY THIS SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE NOW.

4. IN RESPONSE TO HARTMAN'S QUERY ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE, ORTONA SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO MORO IT WAS PROBABLE THAT TREASURY MINISTER LA MALFA WOULD ATTEND, AS WELL AS RISTAGNO (MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY) AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS GUAZZARONI WOULD BE THE LOGICAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON FEBRUARY 8, BUT ORTONA WAS NOT SURE WHETHER HE WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRIVE IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE. A FINAL DECISION ON COMPOSITION OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION MUST

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AWAIT MORO'S RETURN FROM BRUSSELS. KISSINGER

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